

Appendix B: Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants – 2023-2024 Local Parent/Guardian Initiatives

Overview

In alignment with the TCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2022-2025, the 2023-2024 Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants supported initiatives fostering parent engagement to strengthen academic excellence, equity, and well-being within our Catholic learning communities. These initiatives empowered parents to reinforce their children's academic, social-emotional, and spiritual growth, while promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion rooted in Gospel values.

Key PRO Grant-Funded Initiatives

Learning: Growing in Faith

- Family Math and Literacy Nights: Strengthened collaboration between home and school by engaging families in interactive activities that support student achievement in math and literacy.
- Family Coding and STEM Events: Aligned with modern curriculum priorities, these events introduced coding and STEM principles, fostering innovation and curiosity in a Christ-centered learning environment.
- Curriculum Information Sessions: Educated parents on curriculum expectations, especially in science, and provided strategies to support homework and learning at home.

Equity: Growing in Justice

- Anti-Racism and Cultural Awareness Workshops: Promoted inclusive school cultures through discussions on equity and anti-racism, reflecting our commitment to justice and the dignity of every person.
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention: Empowered families with tools to identify and address bullying behaviors, creating safe and respectful school communities.
- Community Resource Expansion: Expanded lending libraries with resources on anti-racist education, equity, and mental health to address the needs of diverse learners and families.

Well-Being: Growing in Knowledge with Justice and Hope

- Mental Health and Resilience Workshops: Delivered sessions on stress management, resilience-building, and emotional regulation to support holistic well-being, consistent with evidence-based practices.
- Digital Safety and Social Media Awareness: Educated parents on online safety and responsible technology use, ensuring students are prepared to navigate digital spaces ethically and securely.
- Parenting for Well-Being: Provided strategies for nurturing children's mental health and addressing challenges like pandemic-related anxiety, reflecting a hopeful and supportive approach to learning.

Parent Networking and Community Building

- Community-Building Events: Encouraged parent participation in family-oriented events, fostering connections and stronger home-school-parish relationships.
- Interactive Workshops on School-Home Connections: Facilitated knowledge-sharing among parents to enhance student achievement, particularly during transitions back to in-person learning.

PRO Grant Utilization

- Total Allocation: \$102,000
- Schools Implementing Initiatives: 65% (124 schools) successfully utilized PRO Grants to enhance parent engagement and education.
- Equity-Focused Reallocation: Unutilized funds were directed towards enriching lending libraries with equity-focused and mental health resources to benefit the broader school community.

PRO Grant Impact

Guided by the MYSP's pillars of Knowledge, Justice, and Hope, these initiatives reflect the TCDSB's commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive environments. By addressing critical areas such as academic support, equity, and mental health, PRO Grants have equipped parents with the tools to actively participate in their children's education. This partnership between families, schools, and communities reinforces the mission of nurturing faith development and academic excellence, ensuring that every learner thrives in a Christ-centered community.